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REF HK483 ON PHILIPPINES COVERAGE

REF HK190700 (UNIDENTIFIED CITY OF ORIGIN) LIBERATION IN
ENGLISH APRIL-MAY -- PHILIPPINES: NDF DECLARES WILLINGNESS TO
ATTAIN PEACE

OPS 9-10
PHILIPPINES

STAT

HONG KONG HAS JUST ACQUIRED VIA MAIL FROM THE GSO AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MANILA TWO ISSUES (APRIL-MAY AND JUNE) OF "LIBERATION" THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE ARE THE FIRST ISSUES TO BE PUBLICLY OFFERED AT MANILA NEWSTANDS; AND APPARANTLY THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING TOLERANT OF THEIR DISTRIBUTION. IT'S AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC AT SELECTED LOCATIONS WAS REPORTE IN HK050655 (AUGUST).

THE APRIL-MAY ISSUE COMES IN A MAGAZINE FORMAT WITH THE WORD "LIBERATION" IN BLACK BANNER SIZE TYPE ACROSS THE TOP OF THE COVER. UNDERNEATH THE TITLE BETWEEN TWO BLACK LINES IS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: "VOL. XIV NO. 3 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES APRIL-MAY 1986 P 3.00." UNDERNEATH IS A PICTURE OF A MAN WITH A GUN HOLDING A SMALL CHILD, DESCRIBED ON A PAGE 2 COVER PICTURE IDENTIFIER AS "RED FIGHTER AND SON". WRITTEN IN BLACK TYPE OVER THE COVER PICTURE ARE THE WORDS: "THE NPA ON ITS 18TH YEAR". UNDER THIS IN LARGER TYPE IT READS: "STRIVING FOR A MEANINGFUL PEACE". ON THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 2 UNDER THE EDITORIAL IS A GREY SECTION WITH A BLACK BORDER TITLED "IN THIS ISSUE". IN BOTH THE APRIL-MAY ISSUE AND THE JUNE ISSUE THE CONTENTS ARE LISTED ACCORDING TO REGULAR SECTIONS INCLUDING: EDITORIAL; COVER STORIES; NDF STANDPOINT; SPARKS ("NEWSBRIEFS ABOUT PEOPLE'S STRUGGLES"); CRACKS ("INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS"); COUNTERCURRENTS ("THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND THE U. S."); SPECIAL REPORT; VIEWPOINT ("CONTRIBUTIONS FROM READERS"); CULTURAL ("ART AND LITERATURE IN THE UNDER GROUND"); AND POINTBLANK (A POTPOURRI OF JOKES AND PUNS). BOTH ISSUES RUN 28 PAGES.

UNDERNEATH THE PAGE 2 CONTENTS SECTION IS THE FOLLOWING

MESSAGE: "THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDF) SERVES AS THE ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND CHANNEL FOR THE UNITY, COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ALL ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR PROGRESSIVE FILIPINOS AND SOLIDARITY GROUPS ABROAD. IT TRACES ITS BEGINNINGS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT ON APRIL 24, 1973. LIBERATION IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NDF. "

PAGE 2 OF THE JUNE ISSUE CARRIES THEIR OWN ADVERTISEMENT WITH A PICTURE OF A LITTLE BOY HOLDING UP A COPY OF LIBERATION. THE AD READS: "THERE WAS A TIME WHEN POSSESSING A COPY OF LIBERATION COULD HAVE COST YOUR FREEDOM. TODAY IT JUST COSTS P 3. IN OCTOBER OF 1972 THE MAIDEN ISSUE OF LIB -- AS IT HAS COME TO BE CALLED -- CAME OUT. AS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT, IT HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS A SUBVERSIVE DOCUMENT AND ITS MERE POSSESSION PUNISHABLE BY LAW. BUT MARTIAL LAW DIDN'T STOP THE PUBLICATION. ISSUES MAY HAVE BEEN SPORADIC IN SOME YEARS BUT LIB STILL ENDURED TO BRING ITS READERS NEWS FROM THE RESISTENCE MOVEMENT DESPITE REAL DANGER TO LIVES AND LIBERTY. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR A DEMOCRATIC PHILIPPINES AHVTLLWPGE BEEN MADE. THESE STORIES AND A LOT MORE YOU CAN READ IN LIB. " BELOW THIS IN BOLD TYPE: "NOW AVAILABLE AT SELECT AND DARING OUTLETXML LOOKING FOR IT IS WORTH THE EFFORT. "

NOT UNEXPECTEDLY THERE IS NO PUBLISHING OR COPYRIGHT INFORMATION OF ANY KIND GIVEN IN EITHER ISSUE; SO THE LOCATION OF THE EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICES AND IDENTIFICATION OF STAFF ARE NOT PROVIDED. WE ARE GUESSING THIS IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION EVEN THOUGH ISSUE NO. 3 IS IDENTIFIED AS "APRIL-MAY". THE SUBSEQUENT ISSUE, NO. 4, JUST SAYS "JUNE".

HERE HAS ANY EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH A PUBLICATION. WE CAN ONLY
SPECULATE OVER WHERE THE PAPER ORIGINATES. THE MANILA AREA IS
A LIKELY CANDIDATE BUT CEBU OR DAVAO WOULD ALSO BE REASONABLE
POSSIBILITIES. WAS WONDERING WHETHER "(CLANDESTINE) LIBERATION
IN ENGLISH" WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. PLS ADVISE. 19/0425Z AUG
BT

#1927

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